

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Native Plant Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Project Title: *Ceanothus roderickii* and *Lasthenia burkei* Seed Collection (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the population of *C. roderickii* at Pine Hill (California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDDB] Element Occurrence [EO] 4) in El Dorado County and one of the sites of the population of *L. burkei* in northwest Santa Rosa (CNDDDB EO 19), Sonoma County. The Seed will be exported to the National Laboratory for Genetic Resource Preservation (NLGRP) in Fort Collins, Colorado for a seed longevity study.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-014-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect and export *C. roderickii* and *L. burkei* seeds in summer 2021 and/or 2022. The Project is part of a larger study led by the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) and the NLGRP to test aging and predict longevity of wild rare plant species seeds using biochemical indicators, such as RNA integrity. The larger study includes up to 149 species, with each CPC member institution collecting seeds for a subset of these species. The study will measure seed deterioration by performing germination assays and a panel of newly available measurements (including RNA integrity) on the freshly collected seed and on seed that has been in storage for 10 to 25 years that was collected from the same plant populations.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shannon Still, Ph.D., Director of Plant Conservation/Curator, UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities for two state-listed plant species, *C. roderickii* and *L. burkei*. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *C. roderickii* and *L. burkei* are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

Signature: DocuSigned by:


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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 8/16/2021

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____